

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated September 24, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 and 7.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 are amended and claim 6 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 7-14 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now believed to be moot in view of the amendments in claims 9 and 10.

In addition, claims 1, 2, 8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08-035947 (JP '947); claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '947 in view of Tiwari (U.S. Patent No. 4,882,032); claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '947 in view of Tiwari and Handman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,864,232); claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '947 in view of Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,595,485); claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '947 in view of Langley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,567,383); and Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '947. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections set forth above, claim 1 is amended to include the allowed subject matter of claim 6 to expedite the prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, claims 1-5 and 7-14, are in condition for immediate allowance.

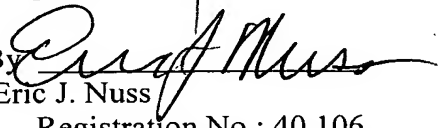
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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